FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

Commission No. 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - ONI, New Orleans, Louisiana (RM)

Report of: JOHN W. FAIN
Date: 7/3/61

Office: DALLAS

Field Office File No.: Dallas 100-10461

Bureau File No.: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis: The subject, who attempted to defect to Russia in October, 1959, and who was a member of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, was given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve 8/17/60. Subject born 10/18/39, New Orleans, Louisiana. His father, EDWARD LEE OSWALD, died before subject's birth. Subject moved with his mother to Fort Worth, Texas, from New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1945. As a high school student at Fort Worth subject enlisted at age 17 in the U. S. Marine Corps 10/24/56. He received an honorable discharge 9/11/59 from the U. S. Marine Corps and reenlisted as a Private in the USMC Reserve same day. Following his discharge in September, 1959, subject visited his mother at Fort Worth for a few days and left for New Orleans with expressed intention of resuming employment in export-import work. Subject's mother subsequently received letter from New Orleans from subject advising he had booked passage on a ship to Europe. Subject later renounced U. S. citizenship and sought to become a citizen of Russia. Subject reported to be residing at Minsk, Russia, and is said to have recently expressed a desire for return of U. S. passport as he desired to return to U.S. under certain conditions.

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DETAILS:

Investigation was predicated on information received by communication of January 11, 1961, from District Intelligence Office, 8th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, advising that

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD, who attempted to defect to Russia in October, 1959, and who was a member of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, had been given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Name and Aliases

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, also known as Lee Oswald.

B. Residence

On April 28, 1960, Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD, subject's mother, currently residing at 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas, where she was employed at Methodist Orphans Home, volunteered the following information:

She stated that up until 1945 she and her sons had lived at New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1945 they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where the subject attended high school until he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps at the age of 17 in October, 1956.

On June 28, 1961, Mrs. JAMES E. TAYLOR, 4936 Collingwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas, stated the subject and his mother resided in a partly furnished upstairs apartment at 4936 Collingwood Street, from July 1, 1956, to May 1, 1957, except that subject sometime during the Fall of 1956, enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps at the age of 17. She advised that subject's brother, ROBERT OSWALD, also resided at 4936 Collingwood until the time of his marriage.

On April 10, 1961, Mrs. OSWALD voluntarily furnished the information that she was currently residing at 1612 Hurley Street, Fort Worth, Texas. She explained that she had returned to Fort Worth about April 1, 1961, from Boyd, Texas, where she had operated a dress shop which she found necessary to close on account of financial difficulties. Mrs. OSWALD related that during January, 1961, she had made a trip to Washington, D. C., for the purpose of contacting the office of the U. S. Secretary of State in an effort to obtain some information concerning subject. She stated that she had furnished all information available in her possession concerning the subject and that she had in turn sought information to ascertain his current address. She advised that she had recently been informed by the State Department that subject was located at Minsk, Russia. She also advised that it is her understanding that subject desires to return to the United States.

C. Employment

Mrs. OSWALD advised on April 28, 1960, that subject had been engaged in the export-import type of employment at New Orleans, Louisiana, after visiting her in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1959. In 1945 he was a student at the Fort Worth High School at the time he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps in October, 1956.

D. Citizenship Status

According to information furnished by Mrs. OSWALD in April, 1960, subject was born October 18, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana. His father was EDWARD LEE OSWALD who died before subject was born.

Mrs. OSWALD volunteered the information that subject had taken his birth certificate with him when he left Fort Worth, Texas.

E. Nationality Background

No information available.

F. Education

Mrs. OSWALD stated on April 28, 1960, subject was attending high school at Fort Worth when he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. He has not finished high school.

On June 28, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informant T-1 advised that subject had special educational training while in the U. S. Marine Corps at Jacksonville, Florida, from March 18, 1957 to May 3, 1957; and in Biloxi, Mississippi, from May 4, 1957 to June 19, 1957. Subject had special training as an electronics operator and as a radio operator.

In April, 1960, Mrs. OSWALD advised that subject had informed her by letter sometime during the Spring or Summer of 1959, that he had made arrangements to attend the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland. She also advised that a few days previous to April 28, 1960, she had received a letter from this college to the effect that subject was expected to arrive on April 20, 1960.

On February 28, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informant T-2 advised that it had been ascertained that subject never arrived

at the Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland although he had paid a $25.00 deposit toward school fee. The college had not heard from subject since he sent in his deposit during June of 1959.

G. Military record

Dallas T-1 advised on June 23, 1961, that subject, assigned serial number 1653230, had enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on October 24, 1956, while residing at 4936 Collingwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas. On September 11, 1959, subject received an honorable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps and entered on the same date as a Private First Class in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve.

By communication dated January 11, 1961, the District Intelligence Office, 8th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that subject had been given an undesirable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on August 17, 1960.

H. Close Relatives in Armed Forces

On April 28, 1960, Mrs. MARGUERITE C. OSWALD stated that she had two other sons, ROBERT LEE OSWALD, age 26, who was formerly in the U. S. Air Force, and JOHN EDWARD PIC, age 28, who was then a Staff Sergeant in the U. S. Air Force and was then stationed at Hiroshima, Japan. This is Staff Sergeant JOHN EDWARD PIC, Air Force No. 11313229.

I. Physical Description

Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD also on April 28, 1960, furnished the following description of LEE HARVEY OSWALD:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	20 (1960)
Date of birth:	October 18, 1939
Place of birth:	New Orleans, Louisiana.
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	165 lbs.
Eyes:	Blue
Hair:	Light brown, wavy

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J. Identification Record

On February 21, 1961, the following advised they had no record in their files identifiable with subject:

B. F. SPEARS, Identification Division, and CONNIE ODUM, Central Records Division, Fort Worth, Texas, Police Department, and W. M. YOUNG, Identification Division, Tarrant County, Sheriff's Office.

K. Photograph

On April 28, 1960, Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD furnished a photograph of subject which is being retained in the Dallas file.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

ROBERT LEE OSWALD, 7313 Davenport Street, Fort Worth, Texas, was, on April 27, 1960, employed as a salesman for Acme Brick Company of Fort Worth. ROBERT LEE OSWALD stated that he is a brother of subject who was believed by ROBERT to be in Moscow, Russia. ROBERT related that his brother had obtained an honorable discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps in September, 1959, and after visiting his mother in Fort Worth for a period of about three days left Fort Worth with the expressed intention of going to New Orleans, Louisiana, to resume his former employment in export-import work. ROBERT stated that the entire family was later shocked to learn that subject had gone to Russia where he had renounced his United States citizenship and had applied for citizenship in the Soviet Union.

ROBERT LEE OSWALD also stated that he had never known the subject to have had any sympathy for or connection with communism before this incident occurred.

ROBERT OSWALD stated that he has had no contact in any manner or form with any individual known by him to be a Soviet official or affiliated in any way with Soviet establishments. He also stated that so far as he knows, neither his mother nor any other member of this family have had any contact whatsoever with Soviet officials or with Soviet establishments.

ROBERT LEE OSWALD stated that he would immediately contact the FBI in the event he were contacted by Soviet officials. He also stated that neither he nor his mother has been requested to furnish any items of personal identification to the subject in Russia and that in the event he were to receive such a request he would immediately contact the FBI.

On April 28, 1960, Mrs. MARGUERITE C. OSWALD, who was then employed at Methodist Orphans Home, 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas, volunteered the following information:

Mrs. OSWALD stated that she has been very much upset and uneasy concerning her son, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, since she learned during the Fall of 1959, with much to her surprise that he had gone to Moscow, Russia, where he had renounced his United States citizenship and had apparently sought Soviet citizenship. She stated that following his discharge from the U. S. Marine Corps in September, 1959, he visited her for a few days in Fort Worth and left town stating that he was going to New Orleans, Louisiana, to resume his employment with an export-import company at New Orleans. She stated that subject had engaged in export-import employment for a brief period of time prior to his enlistment in the U. S. Marine Corps. Mrs. OSWALD also stated that subject had mentioned something about his desire to travel and said something also about the fact that he might go to Cuba.

Mrs. OSWALD stated that shortly after subject arrived in New Orleans, she received the following letter postmarked at New Orleans, Louisiana, from subject:

"Dear mother:

"Well I have booked passage on a ship to Europe. I would of had to sooner or later, and I think its best that I do now. Just remember above all else that my values are very different from Roberts or yours.

"It is difficult to tell you how I feel. Just remember this is what I must do. I did not tell you about my plans because you could hardly be expected to understand. Lee."

Mrs. OSWALD stated that she was very much shocked and surprised later to learn that he had gone to Moscow, Russia. She stated that she had no idea as to how he arrived there but that she does know that he had saved up about $1600 from his services in the U. S. Marine Corps. She stated that he did not previously discuss with her any intention to go to Moscow, Russia. She also stated that he had never shown any proclivities for the ideologies of communism. She stated that he had never expressed any sympathy for Russia or the communist system. She stated that subject was always a studious type of individual and that he read books that were considered "deep." Mrs. OSWALD stated that she would not have been surprised to have heard that subject had gone to, say, South America or Cuba, but that it had never entered her mind that he might go to Russia or that he might try to

become a citizen of Russia. Mrs. OSWALD stated that she felt strongly that subject has a right as an individual to make his own decisions, however, she stated that she was very greatly surprised and disappointed that he had taken this action.

Mrs. OSWALD stated that she made application on January 22 1960, at the First National Bank of Fort Worth, Texas, for a foreign draft and upon payment of $26.65 she was issued a "foreign money transfer No. 142,088" by which instrument she sent $25.00 by air mail to subject, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, in care of Hotel Metropole, Moscow, Russia.

Mrs. OSWALD explained that she was indebted to subject in the amount of $100 as a result of a loan which he had made to her previously.

She stated that on December 18, 1959, she had mailed a personal check of $20.00 by way of part payment on this debt to "LEE OSWALD, Metropole Hotel, Moscow, Russia." She made this check payment to LEE OSWALD. However, on or about January 5, 1960, this check was returned to her by mail containing a note scratched on a piece of paper in pencil by subject, stating he "could not use the check, of course." In this note he requested her to put $20.00 in cash in an envelope and send it to him inasmuch as he was "also short of cash and needed the rest. LEE." She stated that she then mailed a $20 bill and expressed her reluctance in sending cash through the mail. In this letter to subject she requested him to let her know if he received the $20 bill and also to furnish her with his correct address. She stated that she added in this letter her hope that he liked Russia. She added "if you don't and want to come back, I believe it can be arranged. Are you working?" She stated that she addressed this letter to Mr. LEE H. OSWALD, Metropole Hotel, Moscow, Russia. She also advised that the envelope containing the $20 was returned to her on February 25, 1960, stamped, "Retour Departi." She stated that on the reverse side of this envelope was stamped "Mockban Noytant, Moscow, Russia," January 18, 1960," and also the following lettering "MEXAYHAPOAKO."

Mrs. OSWALD advised that since January 22, 1960, she had sent three different letters to her son but that all had been returned to her undelivered. She stated that she feared that he might have become stranded and in danger. She stated that she has had correspondence with reference to subject with her Congressman and with the U. S. State Department inasmuch as she has been very much alarmed for fear that something might have happened to subject. Mr

Mrs. OSWALD stated that she would gladly report any contacts made with her by Soviet officials. She volunteered her eagerness to cooperate in any way possible. She stated that she had not been requested to furnish any items of personal identification to subject in Russia. She volunteered the information that subject had taken with him his birth certificate when he left Fort Worth. She promised to advise the FBI immediately in the event any contacts were made with her by Soviet officials or by Soviet establishments in this connection.

A check of the files of Office of Naval Intelligence, Eighth Naval District, U. S. Naval Station in Algiers, Louisiana, on April 18, 1961, revealed that this file contained a Photostat of a telegram from the Department of State, Moscow, Russia, dated October 31, 1959, at 7:59 A.M. This telegram stated in part that subject who was twenty years of age and unmarried, carrying passport No. 1733242, issued September 10, 1959, had appeared at the Embassy to renounce his American citizenship and had applied in Moscow for Russian citizenship following his entry into the USSR from Helsinki. This telegram advised further that subject's mothersaddress in the United States was 4936 Collingwood Street Fort Worth, Texas. This telegram quoted subject as having said he had contemplated this matter during the last two years. Main reason "American Marxist"; attitude arrogant and aggressive. Subject had recently been discharged from the U. S. Marine Corps. Subject was further quoted as having offered the Soviets any information he had acquired as enlisted radio operator.

On June 28, 1961, Mrs. JAMES E. TAYLOR, 4936 Collingwood Street, Fort Worth, Texas, stated that on or about July 1, 1956, she rented her upstairs west, partly furnished, apartment, to Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD. With Mrs. OSWALD were her two sons, ROBERT and the subject of this case. Mrs. TAYLOR stated that she had never known the third son. Mrs. TAYLOR stated also that she had never known any member of this family prior to July 1, 1956.

Mrs. TAYLOR stated that subject was a student in Arlington Heights High School and was only about 16 or 17 years of age when the OSWALDS moved to this address. She stated that ROBERT later married and moved with his wife to another address. Mrs. TAYLOR stated that subject was a peculiar boy inasmuch as he read a great deal and kept very much to himself. She stated that she has heard Mrs. OSWALD stated that subject read books which were "over his head." Mrs. TAYLOR explained this to mean that the books he read were "deep" books. She stated that she does not know the titles of any of this material which he read. Mrs. TAYLOR stated that she got the impression that subject obtained some of this reading material through the mail. Mrs. TAYLOR stated that she actually

felt sorry for the subject inasmuch as it appeared to her that he had few if any friends and no social life. She stated that she pitied the boy because he had never known his father who had died before his birth. She stated that Mrs. OSWALD worked continuously in an effort to support her two boys. Mrs. TAYLOR remarked that she has never seen any one stay at home more closely than did the subject. She stated that Mrs. OSWALD often quarrelled at him for staying at home so closely and on occasion urged him to get out and seek employment but that he preferred to sit at home and read.

Mrs. TAYLOR stated that Mrs. OSWALD was in poor health and extremely nervous and that she often quarrelled very loudly with both ROBERT and the subject.

Mrs. TAYLOR stated that the OSWALDS came to Fort Worth from New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. TAYLOR stated that both ROBERT OSWALD and Mrs. OSWALD were extremely shocked and hurt by the action which subject took disavowing his United States citizenship and claiming citizenship in Russia.

Mrs. TAYLOR stated that subject enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps while he was residing at 4936 Collingwood Street. She advised that Mrs. OSWALD moved from this address on or about May 1, 1957, and that she has had no contact with the OSWALDS in recent years.

On June 30, 1961, JAMES P. MEEK, 3120 West Fifth Street, Fort Worth, stated that for a period of several months three or four years ago Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD resided at 3124 West Fifth Street. He stated that so far as he knows subject had never resided at 3124 West Fifth and MEEK was unable to furnish any information of value to this investigation.

On June 23, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informants T-3 and T-4 advised that their knowledge of subject is limited to newspaper accounts reporting subject's defection to Soviet Russia. Dallas T-3 and T-4 advised that subject was not a member of the Communist Party (CP) at Fort Worth and that they have never heard his name mentioned in connection with CP membership.

It is noted that the Communist Party, USA (CP), has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States, pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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A review on May 9, 1961, of the files of the Passport Office, U. S. Department of State, Washington, D. C., revealed that on or about January 26, 1961, Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD, mother of subject, appeared at the U. S. Department of State in Washington, D. C. She advised that she had come to Washington to see what could be done to help her son, the subject. She expressed the thought that perhaps her son had gone to the Soviet Union as a "secret agent" and that the State Department was not doing enough to help him. She was advised that such was not the case and that efforts were being made to help her son.

On February 13, 1961, the U. S. Embassy in Moscow, USSR, received an undated letter from LEE HARVEY OSWALD postmarked Minsk, February 5, 1961. In this letter OSWALD indicated that he desired the return of his U. S. passport as he wished to return to the United States if "we could come to some agreement concerning the dropping of any legal proceedings against me." He also said that he could not leave Minsk without permission and therefore was writing instead of visiting the American Embassy.

On March 20, 1961, the U. S. Embassy in Moscow received a letter from OSWALD postmarked Minsk, March 5, 1961. In this letter OSWALD said he found it inconvenient to come to Moscow for an interview at the American Embassy and that he could not leave Minsk without permission. He asked that in place of a personal interview he be sent a questionnaire.